

1939



BRISTOL
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Annual Report
of the
Port Medical Officer of Health

Confidential

Bristol Port Health Committee

Chairman

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R.H. Parry, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Lond). D.P.H.
Port Medical Officer of Health.

I.G. Davies, M.B., M.R.C.P. (Lond). D.P.H.
Deputy Port Medical Officer of Health.

J.A. Robinson, F.R.S.I. Chief Inspector.

The Port Medical Officers are assisted in their duties by a rota of five assistant medical officers. In addition, there are three qualified port inspectors, two assistant port officers, and four rat-catchers. The medical staff also act as medical inspectors of aliens under the direction of the port medical officer as supervising medical inspector.

Bristol Port Health Authority

Annual Report 1939

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you a report on the work of the port health authority during the year 1939.

This report is prepared in accordance with instructions contained in Ministry of Health Circular 1937, and having regard to the desirability of avoiding as far as possible the disclosure of certain information, the contents of the report have been considerably abridged.

There have been no alterations in the permanent arrangements which have been fully described in previous reports.

I am,

My Lord Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. Parry

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Port Health Office,
40 Prince Street,
Bristol.1.

March 1940 .

TABLE A.

Shipping entering the port during the
year 1939.

Number of vessels inspected by medical officer of health	by sanitary inspector	Number reported to be defective	Number on which defects were remedied	Number reported as having or having had during the voyage infec- tious disease on board.
179	2153	428	428	13 +

+ excluding vessels having venereal disease on board.

TABLE C

Cases of infectious sickness LANDED* FROM VESSELS

Disease	No. of cases during 1939		No. of vessels concerned
	Pass.	Crew	
Dysentery	-	1	1
Influenza	-	11	10
Malaria	-	3	3
Pulmonary tuberculosis	-	2	2
Vener ea l disease	-	6	5
Other diseases not included in above table LANDED * FROM VESSELS.			
Rheumatism		4	4
Diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Diseases of digestive system	-	12	11
Diseases of skin and cellular system	-	3	3
Diseases of bones & organs of locomotion.	-	22	2
Traumatism	-	7	7
Ill defined	-	20	19

* Includes only cases requiring medical attention, but all were not removed from ships to hospital.

TABLE D

Cases of infectious sickness ON VESSELS DURING VOYAGE but disposed of prior to arrival.			
Disease	No. of cases during 1939		No. of vessels concerned
	Pass.	Crew	
Malaria	-	1	1
Other diseases not included in above table ON VESSELS DURING VOYAGE but disposed of prior to arrival.			
Rheumatism	-	1	1
Diseases of nervous system	-	1	1
Diseases of skin and cellular system	-	1	1
Diseases of genito urin- ary system	-	1	1
Traumatism	-	1	1
Ill defined	1	4	5

TABLE E

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1939. ON VESSELS	
DESTROYED.....	739
(together with 28 mice)	
EXAMINED.....	274
INFECTED WITH PLAGUE.....	nil
TABLE F	
RATS DESTROYED DURING 1939. IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES.	
DESTROYED.....	5892
(together with 575 mice)	
EXAMINED.....	682
INFECTED WITH PLAGUE.....	nil

TABLE G

Measures of rat destruction on plague 'infected' or 'suspected' vessels or vessels from plague infected ports arriving in the port during the year.

Total number of such vessels arriving	No. of such vessels on which trapping poisoning, etc. were employed	No. of such vessels on which measures of rat destruction were not carried out.
27	25	2 [#]

These ships were examined for rat indications but no measures were taken, either because there was no evidence of rats or because of very short stay in port.

TABLE H.

No. of ships	No. of deratisation certificates issued			No. of deratisation exemption certificates issued	Total certificates issued
	After fumigation with H.C.N.	SULPHUR	After trapping, poisoning etc.	TOTAL	
154	10	9	-	19	154

TABLE J

Number inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
2153	5	94	485

FOOD INSPECTION

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1937

- Resort to legal proceedings was not necessary during the year.

Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations 1925 to 1939

Sampling of foods has been carried out under the provisions of the above regulations. There was only one infringement and this was dealt with in the appropriate manner.

Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926

No milk (other than condensed, evaporated or dried) was imported during the year.

Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations 1934.

There are no shellfish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Bristol Port Health Authority. The supply of shell fish marketed in Bristol is obtained mainly from:-

South Wales, South and North Devon, Norfolk,
and via London.